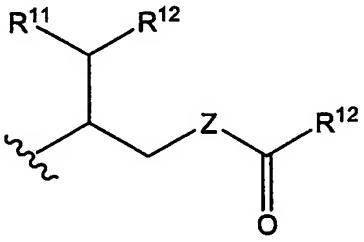
R^6 is selected from -H and -C_1-C_8 alkyl;

R^7 is selected from -H, -C_1-C_8 alkyl, -C_3-C_8 carbocycle, -O-(C_1-C_8 alkyl), -aryl, -C_1-C_8 alkyl-aryl, -C_1-C_8 alkyl-(C_3-C_8 carbocycle), -C_3-C_8 heterocycle and -C_1-C_8 alkyl-(C_3-C_8 heterocycle);

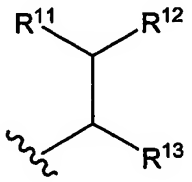
each R^8 is independently selected from -H, -OH, -C_1-C_8 alkyl, -C_3-C_8 carbocycle and -O-(C_1-C_8 alkyl);

R^9 is selected from -H and -C_1-C_8 alkyl;

R^{10} is selected from



and



;

Z is -O-, -S-, -NH- or -N(R^{14})-;

R^{11} is selected from -H, -OH, -NH_2, -NHR^{14}, -N(R^{14})$_2$, -C_1-C_8 alkyl, -C_3-C_8 carbocycle, -O-(C_1-C_8 alkyl), -aryl, -C_1-C_8 alkyl-aryl, -C_1-C_8 alkyl-(C_3-C_8 carbocycle), -C_3-C_8 heterocycle and -C_1-C_8 alkyl-(C_3-C_8 heterocycle); or R^{11} is an oxygen atom which forms a carbonyl unit (C=O) with the carbon atom to which it is attached and a hydrogen atom on this carbon atom is replaced by one of the bonds in the (C=O) double bond;

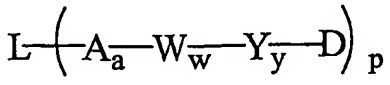
each R^{12} is independently selected from -aryl and -C_3-C_8 heterocycle;

R^{13} is selected from -H, -OH, -NH_2, -NHR^{14}, -N(R^{14})$_2$, -C_1-C_8 alkyl, -C_3-C_8 carbocycle, -O-(C_1-C_8 alkyl), -aryl, -C_1-C_8 alkyl-aryl, -C_1-C_8 alkyl-(C_3-C_8 carbocycle), C_3-C_8 heterocycle and -C_1-$_8$ alkyl-(C_3-C_8 heterocycle); and

Each R^{14} is independently -H or -C_1-C_8 alkyl.

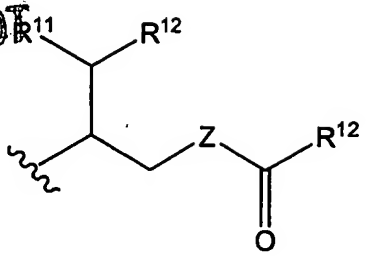
2. The compound of claim 1 wherein w is an integer ranging from 2 to 12.

3. A compound of the formula Ib:

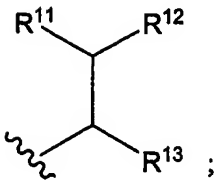


Ib

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or solvate thereof



and



;

Z is -O-, -S-, -NH- or -N(R^{14})-;

R^{11} is selected from -H, -OH, -NH_2, -NHR^{14}, -$N(R^{14})_2$, -C_1-C_8 alkyl, -C_3-C_8 carbocycle, -O-(C_1-C_8 alkyl), -aryl, -C_1-C_8 alkyl-aryl, -C_1-C_8 alkyl-(C_3-C_8 carbocycle), -C_3-C_8 heterocycle and -C_1-C_8 alkyl-(C_3-C_8 heterocycle); or R^{11} is an oxygen atom which forms a carbonyl unit (C=O) with the carbon atom to which it is attached and a hydrogen atom on this carbon atom is replaced by one of the bonds in the (C=O) double bond;

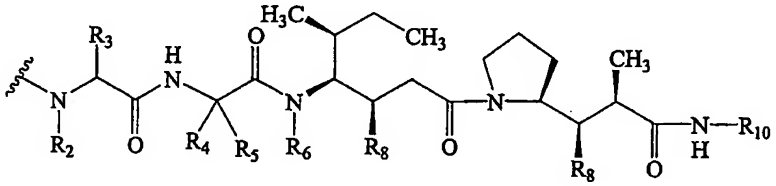
each R^{12} is independently selected from -aryl and -C_3-C_8 heterocycle;

R^{13} is selected from -H, -OH, -NH_2, -NHR^{14}, -$N(R^{14})_2$, -C_1-C_8 alkyl, -C_3-C_8 carbocycle, -O-(C_1-C_8 alkoxy), -aryl, -C_1-C_8 alkyl-aryl, -C_1-C_8 alkyl-(C_3-C_8 carbocycle), C_3-C_8 heterocycle and -C_1-C_8 alkyl-(C_3-C_8 heterocycle); and

each R^{14} is independently -H or -C_1-C_8 alkyl.

6. The compound of claim 5 wherein w is an integer ranging from 2 to 12.

7. A compound or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or solvate of the compound of claim 1 where -D is a Drug unit having the structure



or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or solvate thereof,

wherein, independently at each location:

R^2 is selected from -H and -methyl;

R^3 is selected from -H, -methyl, and -isopropyl;

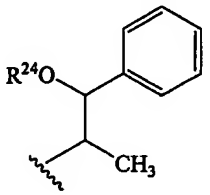
R^4 is selected from -H and -methyl; R^5 is selected from -isopropyl, -isobutyl, -sec-butyl, -methyl and -t-butyl or R^4 and R^5 join, have the formula – (CR^aR^b)$_n$- where R^a and R^b are independently selected from -H, -C_1-C_8 alkyl, and -C_3-C_8 carbocycle, and n is

selected from 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6, and form a ring with the carbon atom to which they are attached;

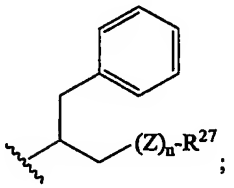
R^6 is selected from -H and -methyl;

each R^8 is independently selected from -OH, -methoxy and -ethoxy;

R^{10} is selected from



and



;

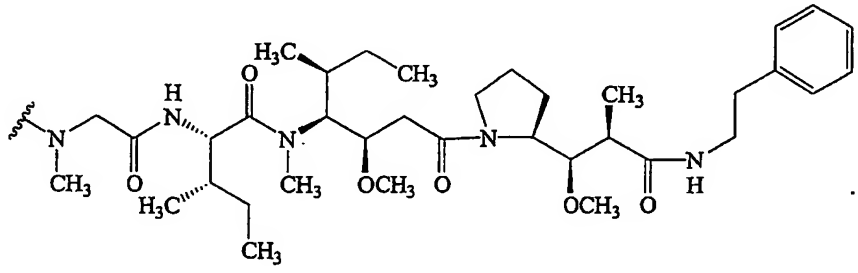
R^{24} is selected from H and $-C(O)R^{25}-$; wherein R^{25} is selected from $-C_1-C_8$ alkyl, $-C_3-C_8$ carbocycle, -aryl, $-C_1-C_8$ alkyl-aryl, $-C_1-C_8$ alkyl-(C_3-C_8 carbocycle), $-C_3-C_8$ heterocycle and $-C_1-C_8$ alkyl-(C_3-C_8 heterocycle);

Z is -O-, -NH-, -OC(O)-, -NHC(O)-, $-NR^{28}C(O)-$; where R^{28} is selected from -H and $-C_1-C_8$ alkyl;

n is 0 or 1; and

R^{27} is selected from -H, $-N_3$, $-C_1-C_8$ alkyl, $-C_3-C_8$ carbocycle, -aryl, $-C_1-C_8$ alkyl-aryl, $-C_1-C_8$ alkyl-(C_3-C_8 carbocycle), $-C_3-C_8$ heterocycle and $-C_1-C_8$ alkyl-(C_3-C_8 heterocycle) when n is 0; and R^{27} is selected from -H, $-C_1-C_8$ alkyl, $-C_3-C_8$ carbocycle, -aryl, $-C_1-C_8$ alkyl-aryl, $-C_1-C_8$ alkyl-(C_3-C_8 carbocycle), $-C_3-C_8$ heterocycle and $-C_1-C_8$ alkyl-(C_3-C_8 heterocycle) when n is 1.

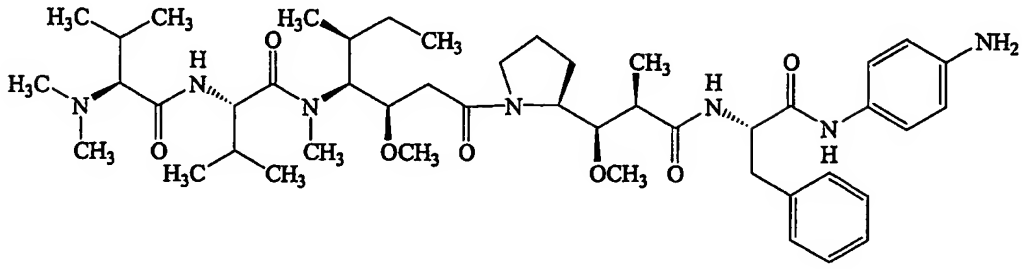
8. A compound or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or solvate of the compound of claim 1 where -D is a Drug unit having the structure



9. A compound or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or solvate of the compound of claim 1 where -D is a Drug unit having the structure

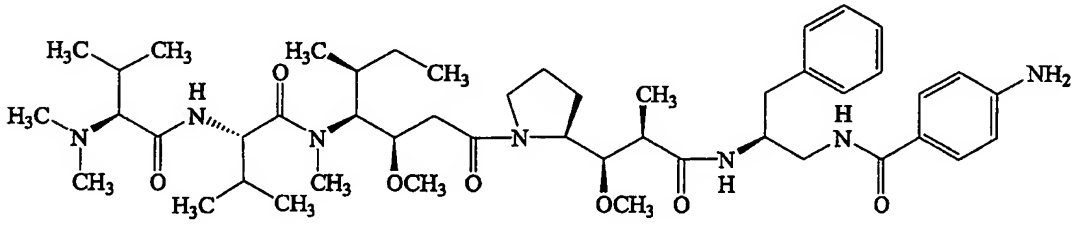
or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or solvate thereof.

90. A compound having the structure



or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or solvate thereof.

91. A compound having the structure



or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or solvate thereof.

92. The compound or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or solvate thereof of any one of claims 1, 3, 5, 32, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 43 or 44, in an isolated or a purified form.